

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A power generator comprising:

a stator;

a rotor positioned adjacent the stator, the rotor having a plurality of slots formed therein;

a plurality of a rotor coils each positioned within a respective one of the plurality of slots;

and

a plurality of rotor wedges each positioned to retain a respective one of the plurality of rotor coils within the one respective one of the plurality of slots, each of the plurality of rotor wedges having a substantially solid, extruded wedge body and at least one substantially hollow cavity means formed in the wedge body so that the at least one hollow cavity means is substantially evenly distributed about a neutral axis of stress applied to the wedge body when in use and so that the neutral axis of stress of the wedge body having the hollow cavity means is substantially the same neutral axis of stress of a wedge body having substantially the same shape as the wedge body without the hollow cavity means.

Claim 2 (currently amended) A power generator as defined in Claim 1, wherein the at least one hollow cavity means extends through the wedge body and is positioned within the wedge body.

Claim 3 (currently amended) A power generator as defined in Claim 1, wherein the at least one hollow cavity means comprises a plurality of longitudinally extending and substantially

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hollow cavities substantially evenly distributed about the neutral axis of stress of the wedge body so that the neutral axis of stress of the wedge body having the plurality of hollow cavities is substantially the same neutral axis of stress of a wedge body having substantially the same shape as the wedge body without the plurality of hollow cavities.

Claim 4 (original) A power generator as defined in Claim 1, wherein the wedge body is elongate and substantially rigid, wherein the wedge body includes a substantially flat bottom surface and a substantially flat top surface, the top surface having less surface area than the bottom surface, and wherein an imaginary vertical center line extending from the top surface to the bottom surface divides the wedge body into two half portions, the two half portions being substantially mirror images of each other.

Claim 5 (currently amended) A power generator as defined in Claim 4, wherein the at least one hollow cavity ~~means~~ extends through the wedge body and is positioned within the wedge body.

Claim 6 (original) A power generator as defined in Claim 1, wherein the body also includes at least a pair of side peripheries each sloping inwardly and upwardly from the plane of the extent of the substantially flat bottom surface of the wedge body.

Claim 7 (original) A power generator as defined in Claim 6, wherein the intersection of the plane of the extent of the bottom surface and the plane of the inwardly and upwardly sloping

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of the pair of side peripheries define a predetermined angle, the predetermined angle being in the range of about 5 degrees to about 45 degrees.

Claim 8 (currently amended) A rotor wedge for a power generator, the rotor wedge comprising a substantially solid, ~~extruded~~ wedge body and at least one substantially hollow cavity means formed in the wedge body so that the at least one hollow cavity means is substantially evenly distributed about a neutral axis of stress applied to the wedge body when in use and so that the neutral axis of stress of the wedge body having the hollow cavity means is substantially the same neutral axis of stress of a wedge body having substantially the same shape as the wedge body without the hollow cavity means.

Claim 9 (previously presented) A rotor wedge as defined in Claim 8, wherein the at least one hollow cavity means extends through the wedge body and is positioned within the wedge body.

Claim 10 (previously presented) A rotor wedge as defined in Claim 8, wherein the at least one hollow cavity means comprises a plurality of substantially hollow cavity means substantially evenly distributed about the neutral axis of stress of the wedge body so that the neutral axis of stress of the wedge body having the plurality of hollow cavity means is substantially the same neutral axis of stress of a wedge body having substantially the same shape as the wedge body without the plurality of hollow cavity means.

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Claim 11 (original) A rotor wedge as defined in Claim 8, wherein the wedge body is elongate and substantially rigid, wherein the wedge body includes a substantially flat bottom surface and a substantially flat top surface, the top surface having less surface area than the bottom surface, and wherein an imaginary vertical center line extending from the top surface to the bottom surface divides the body into two half portions, the two half portions being substantially mirror images of each other.

Claim 12 (previously presented) A rotor wedge as defined in Claim 11, wherein the at least one hollow cavity means extends through the wedge body and is positioned within the wedge body.

Claim 13 (original) A rotor wedge as defined in Claim 9, wherein the body also includes at least a pair of side peripheries each sloping inwardly and upwardly from the plane of the extent of the substantially flat bottom surface of the wedge body.

Claim 14 (original) A rotor wedge as defined in Claim 13, wherein the intersection of the plane of the extent of the bottom surface and the plane of the inwardly and upwardly sloping of the pair of side peripheries define a predetermined angle, the predetermined angle being in the range of about 5 degrees to about 45 degrees.

Claim 15 (original) A rotor wedge as defined in Claim 14, wherein the wedge body is formed of a metal material.

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Claim 16 (withdrawn) A method of using a wedge for a power generator, the method comprising:

increasing the mass of the contents of a slot of a power generator; and
positioning a wedge having at least one cavity formed therein and extending longitudinally throughout major portions thereof to overlie the contents of the slot and retain the slot contents therein, the increased mass of the contents of the slot being by an amount substantially equal to or less than the mass required to fill the substantially hollow cavity.

Claim 17 (withdrawn) A method as defined in Claim 16, further comprising increasing the power output of the power generator responsive to the increased mass of the contents of the slot during operation of the power generator, and

wherein the at least one substantially hollow cavity formed in the wedge is substantially evenly distributed about a neutral axis of stress applied to the wedge when in use so that the neutral axis of stress of the wedge having the hollow cavity is substantially the same neutral axis of stress of a wedge having substantially the same shape as the wedge without the hollow cavity.

Claim 18 (withdrawn) A method as defined in Claim 16, further comprising increasing the power efficiency of the power generator responsive to the increased mass of the contents of the slot during operation of the power generator, and

wherein the at least one substantially hollow cavity formed in the wedge is substantially evenly distributed about a neutral axis of stress applied to the wedge when in use so that the neutral axis of stress of the wedge having the hollow cavity is substantially the same neutral axis of stress of a wedge having substantially the same shape as the wedge without the hollow cavity.

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Claim 19 (withdrawn) A method as defined in Claim 16, wherein the at least one hollow cavity comprises a plurality of substantially hollow cavities substantially evenly distributed about the neutral axis of stress of the wedge so that the neutral axis of stress of the wedge having the plurality of hollow cavities is substantially the same neutral axis of stress of a wedge having substantially the same shape as the wedge without the plurality of hollow cavities.

Claim 20 (withdrawn) A method as defined in Claim 16, wherein the at least one substantially hollow cavity longitudinally extends through major portions of the wedge.